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CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A system for developing a general procurement and
2 accounts payable application, comprising:

3 a server;

4 a storage device connected to said server;

5 a plurality of team terminals;

6 a communication link interconnecting said server and
7 said terminals;

8 said server being operable for (1) maintaining a
9 database of templates describing procedures for
10 developing said application on said storage device and
11 (2) serving said templates to enterprise and customer
12 team members operating said terminals for coordinating,
13 recording and tracking team activities with respect to
14 said application.

1 2. The system of claim 1, each said template storing,
2 either directly or by way of links to other documents,
3 materials for guiding, coordinating and documenting the
4 work of said team members.

1 3. A method for developing a general procurement and
2 accounts payable application, comprising the steps of:

3 maintaining a database of templates describing
4 procedures for developing a general procurement and
5 accounts payable system;

6 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
7 access via a server said database for coordinating
8 tasks by a plurality of service provider and customer
9 teams implementing said procedures.

1 4. The method of claim 3, each said template storing,
2 either directly or by way of links to other documents,
3 materials for guiding, coordinating and documenting the
4 work of said service provider and customer teams.

1 5. The method of claim 3, said materials including one or
2 more instructions, flow charts, sample questionnaires,
3 report models and checklists.

1 6. The method of claim 3, said service provider being one
2 or both of an enterprise or a third party contractor to said
3 enterprise and said customer.

1 7. The method of claim 3, said procedures including
2 business controls, transformation management, accounting
3 system, accounting system interface customization procedures
4 for developing an integrated approach to said application.

1 8. The method of claim 7, deliverables of said procedures
2 including a plurality of items from the set of items
3 including application design documentation, separation of
4 duties, sensitive programs, logical access control, logging,
5 change control for tables, change control for programs,
6 system testing, input controls, processing controls, error
7 handling controls, output controls, balancing and
8 reconciliation, vital records and disaster recovery, records
9 management, reports, local area network, and country

10 specifics.

1 9. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being documentation providing an assessment of the quality
3 and completeness of existing program documentation and a
4 determination of the degree to which programs could be
5 efficiently reconstructed if they were destroyed.

1 10. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of separation of duties of programmer,
3 computer operations, and user groups.

1 11. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of sensitive programs and controls for
3 preventing unauthorized modification and/or use of said
4 application.

1 12. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of logical access control.

1 13. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of a logging mechanism for ensure a
3 correct audit trail.

1 14. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of a change control system established
3 to evaluate, justify and control changes to tables.

1 15. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of a change control system is
3 established to evaluate, justify and control changes to
4 programs.

1 16. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of system testing procedures planned and
3 implemented to ensure that controls are successfully tested
4 and documented.

1 17. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of input controls for insuring accuracy
3 and completeness of information entering said application.

1 18. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of processing controls applied for entry
3 of data to ensure accuracy and completeness of data during
4 computer processing.

1 19. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of error handling controls for error
3 handling and reprocessing of transactions.

1 20. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of output controls for ensuring the
3 integrity of the output data from conclusion of computer
4 processing to delivery to a user.

1 21. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of balancing and reconciliation
3 procedures to reconcile output to input verified as
4 effective.

1 22. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of vital records and disaster recovery
3 procedures for providing continuity or rapid system
4 restoration of a business process immediately following a
5 natural or man-made emergency or disaster.

1 23. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of records management business practices
3 and controls.

1 24. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of reports distribution.

1 25. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of a Local Area Network (LAN) for
3 interconnecting devices implementing said application.

1 26. The method of claim 7, a deliverable of said procedures
2 being a description of country specific considerations.

1 27. The method of claim 7, said procedures including
2 transformation management procedures for guiding development
3 team members as they work with said customer to institute
4 policy changes to be made to said customer legacy system as
5 part of said application.

1 28. The method of claim 27, said policy changes including
2 management system approval and change rules for said
3 application.

1 29. The method of claim 28, said policies including
2 measurements, management system, approval levels, supplier
3 contracts and contacts, reward systems, incentive plans,
4 security, and employee and user changes.

1 30. The method of claim 27, said policy changes being
2 developed by cross-functional teams according to the steps
3 of:

4 identifying gaps between said legacy application and a
5 new application;

6 developing a response to said gaps, including any
7 action required during transition to said new
8 application;

9 determining the timing of said response;

10 designing a communication plan for communicating said
11 response to affected parties; and

12 integrating said response and communication plan into
13 an overall plan for deploying said new application.

1 31. A method for generation of templates for describing
2 deliverables of a general procurement and accounts payable
3 development system, comprising the steps of:

4 maintaining a database of generic templates describing
5 the deliverables of tasks for developing a general
6 procurement and accounts payable system;

7 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
8 access via a server said database for coordinating
9 tasks by a plurality of service provider and customer
10 teams for configuring said deliverables to specific

11 customer requirements.

1 32. A system for evaluating a potential client system and
2 for adapting a general procurement and accounts payable
3 system to the requirements of each of many potential
4 clients, comprising:

5 maintaining a database of generic templates describing
6 the deliverables of tasks for developing a general
7 procurement and accounts payable system;

8 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
9 access via a server said database for coordinating
10 tasks by a plurality of service provider and customer
11 teams for configuring said deliverables to specific
12 customer requirements for customer specific general
13 procurement and accounts payable system.

1 33. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for developing a general
4 procurement and accounts payable application, said method
5 steps comprising:

6 maintaining a database of templates describing
7 procedures for developing a general procurement and
8 accounts payable system;

9 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
10 access via a server said database for coordinating
11 tasks by a plurality of service provider and customer
12 teams implementing said procedures; each said template
13 storing, either directly or by way of links to other
14 documents, materials for guiding, coordinating and
15 documenting the work of said service provider and
16 customer teams.

1 34. An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable
3 program code means embodied therein for developing a
4 general procurement and accounts payable application,
5 the computer readable program means in said article of
6 manufacture comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a
8 computer to effect maintaining a database of templates
9 describing procedures for developing a general

10 procurement and accounts payable system;

11 computer readable program code means for causing a
12 computer to effect operating a plurality of web-enabled
13 user terminals to access via a server said database for
14 coordinating tasks by a plurality of service provider
15 and customer teams implementing said procedures; each
16 said template storing, either directly or by way of
17 links to other documents, materials for coordinating
18 and documenting the work of said service provider and
19 customer teams.

1 35. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for developing a general procurement and accounts payable
3 application according to the steps of:

4 maintaining a database of templates describing
5 procedures for developing a general procurement and
6 accounts payable system;

7 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to
8 access via a server said database for coordinating
9 tasks by a plurality of service provider and customer
10 teams implementing said procedures; each said template

11 storing, either directly or by way of links to other
12 documents, materials for guiding and coordinating the
13 work of said service provider and customer teams.